

7/17/70

Dear Gary,

Your letter of the 14th, with contract, arrived today. I returned the signed contract herewith, but there are some exceptions that are unavoidable only because of existing conditions. I list them below. I presume, from knowing me and the style of my life and affairs, you will understand them. There is a carbon of this letter also enclosed. If it is agreeable to you, rather than going to the trouble of drafting a new contract, why not initial that carbon and return it to me as acceptance of these things, if they are acceptable to you?

1. The exclusive provision is okay and for all practical purposes is what it will be. However, I have an existing agreement, non-exclusive, with the Boston agency that has turned off, as I explained to you. For its duration, should they book me, I would have to accept such a booking. I do not expect it, have no reason to, and will not renew that agreement. It has been so long since I've heard from them I've forgotten their name, so I can't even lock the contract up and send you a copy. They have not yet booked me (remember, Lane?). I report this with the certainty they will not book me, but there remains the remote possibility. In addition, I am expecting commercial publication of a book and am dickering on a second that, if agreed to, will be done very fast and with a big publisher. I presume neither would conflict, but would I not have to accept their p.r. efforts? I presume they'd work with you, and I'd tell them of you, but I lack experience here and again, report it because of what might be expected of me.

3. For the first couple of appearances, I'll undoubtedly have to have my expenses advances in some manner, unless by then I get a sizeable advance and hold some back from the bank, to which I owe more than any possible advance. Once I have some income from this, I'll keep enough for transportation in reserve. Now I have no reserves. Or even funds. Last sentence: as you know from your own experience, sometimes I make and really have to make unscheduled, ad lib broadcasts from home. These are more in the nature of news than "performances", but I do not want to be in technical violation of the agreement. I have media friends who consult me regularly, air me less regularly. If you would like me to phone you whenever I know in advance of such a thing, I can, but as you also know, usually my first knowledge is when I hear the beeper. Also, there are a few, very few, local and other friends for whom I infrequently make minor appearances, without fee. I will not agree to any for pay except through you. Okay?

12. I cannot agree that each month I'll not forget or will have time to inform you what dates I'll not be available, especially with the upcoming scheduled litigation. However, the reverse is no sweat. I'll keep a calendar by the phone and be able to tell you immediately if any date is not okay. These court matters are out of my control and beyond my prediction, as are conferences with publishers, etc. However, once I have a date set for an appearance, I can work around that, with both courts and publishers, for this is normal.

You included no copy of the agreement for me.

I forgot the Washington Post story on the Ray case. It is enclosed.

A "New Orleans Review" (Tulane or Loyola) review is enclosed, too.

it is by a lit prof at whichever school. Perhaps you'd like to quote parts of it. There is a Playboy review, with major attention, as I recall, to "Six Seconds", in which Eric Norden said some nice things. Gary should have it. I can't find the copy I had, probably having loaned it out. But if I can locate it later, I'll enclose it.

At this juncture, I do not think you'd want to use the Wash Post 3/3/67 story enclosed, but you judge.

A switch: The New York Times greeted my books not with reviews but with lengthy news attentional, unheard of for private publications and not common for any except a few books of political content. Two enclosed.

The variety 11/16/66 story is an understatement. That was the first one-man TV special (first red mark), scheduled for 20 minutes and lasting 2:20, with me against a stacked audience, of which I'd not been informed, led by four lawyers, who required about 1:45 to learn that silence is golden. It got the stations top ratings ever and made Burke into something he isn't.

Max Lerner has more shoulders than anyone. I've marked a few of his comments about me you might want to use a la movie blurbs, like, "...the stuff of great documentary literature...puts all the hep-cat novelists to shame", or the reference to his "delight" at the "documentary portarits".

Maybe you can use me from the Wall Street Journal lead.

Maybe excerpts from the 5/10/67 London Times is useful.

As I told you, I've kept no "puff" file. I've thought of a few things you can use, some without attribution, for I have no such permission and could not ask it. (Example, Gavin, who you could quote and describe in general, as "one of the men closest to JFK", or one of the generals, etc. His words referring to one of the books is "quite a remarkable paper". I think this was the limited-edition, POST MORTEM. Of my work he said, "You are performing a great public service in publishing much of that material which would otherwise remain unseen")

Most of my dealing with media people were by phone. An early letter from Joe Dolan, after the first show I did with him, is not suitable for reproduction, but it can be excerpted (he is also at KGO now). However, with his following and ratings, for him to say what the first graph says is something. In case you want to use excerpts in facsimile, I've copied one with his signature not on the side.

One of the few cases of any correspondence with the universities, aside from confirmations, is with Vermont, enclosed. I mentioned this to you. It was their most successful meeting, even in competition with their annual snow carnival.

The enclosed WFMJ letter is from that year's head of the Ohio News Directors' Convention. It was the first time they had someone of lesser rank than an assistant secretary of State. They asked me to tangle with them and I did, taking on the whole range, after a prepared (my only such) speech, from drunken, sycophantic reporters to the Taft editors. This guy got clobbered by management, but wrote a quotable letter. If you want, return copy and I'll send original.

All the pictures I have of me are enclosed. The 5x7 print is the only dupe. The others I need back, whenever you have finished with them. Gary may have gotten some good ones of me when I was there. Or he may know those who did, inc. newspapers and TV stations. I had a press conference. I think some of the TV shows also used film, still and motion. Again, he might know...Rushing to make mail,

Harold Weisberg